

*Mr. Dulles*

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September 6, 1961

MEMORANDUM FOR: General Maxwell D. Taylor  
Chairman, Special Group

FROM: Richard H. Davis, Chairman  
Special Working Group

SUBJECT: Report on Suggestions for Covert Action as Requested  
by the Special Group at August 31 Meeting

The Special Working Group has not had time to develop a detailed list of possible covert actions in response to the August 31 request of the Special Group. It hopes, however, that by next week and periodically thereafter, suggestions for covert action may be submitted for consideration by the Special Group.

The Working Group has discussed the concept under which suggestions should be made in this field. It believes that actions in the covert field should, of course, be in support of U.S. objectives, namely, (1) to convince the Soviet leadership that the United States is determined to fight, if necessary, to preserve the essentials of freedom for Berlin, including Western physical presence there, free access and the viability of the city; (2) to exploit the Soviet and satellite peoples' fear of war and link this to the Soviet-manufactured crisis over Berlin and (3) to uphold the morale and spirit of the West Berlin population.

The Working Group believes it especially important that actions in the covert field taken in support of these objectives should have a basis in fact so that they will be credible to Soviet and satellite authorities. It does not believe that we can "manufacture" actions toward these objectives which do not have some basis in fact discoverable by the Soviet intelligence system.

There are certain actions under way or possible of suggestion in the covert political and military fields which support U.S. objectives. For example, in addition to the covert actions reported in the first progress report, dated August 30, the Working Group has approved the training of para-military support personnel as authorized by the Special Group on August 17 and the expansion by Radio Liberty of its daily broadcast to East Germany to Soviet forces there. (See Second Progress Report.) Although it is not yet prepared to make definite recommendations on them, the Working Group has under consideration proposals regarding the resumption of Black Radio operations

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directed against East Germany, the satellites and the Soviet Union, preparations for possible future balloon operations and certain proposals designed to create confidence in West Berlin's future.

Measures which could support the theme of U.S. readiness to accept the risk of general war over the Berlin problem, if necessary, include:

(a)

(b) In the military field passage of information indicating the scope and extent of the U.S. military buildup.

(c) Deliberate structuring of troop movements, military exercises and maneuvers in such a way as to convey implications of intent, actual or notional.

(d) The development of notional "plans" to be fed through a variety of means into the Soviet intelligence system for purposes of deception. To lend necessary credibility to such "plans," they may in some instances require support in the form of specific actions.

The Working Group requests instructions from the Special Group as to whether the concept outlined above of the aim of its work is correct.

cc: Mr. Johnson  
Mr. Gilpatrick  
Mr. Dulles

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